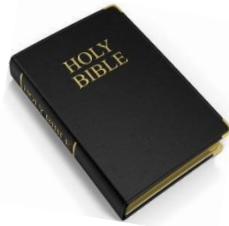


# The Linway News

October 2020

## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

Greetings! With the arrival of October every year we think of the change of seasons. The leaves will once again turn a blaze of color and then we will be busy either raking or using a power blower to move them from where they fell to some manner of disposal. Those thoughts speak to the continuity of the season. Some things do not change.

However, this year it seems that so many things have changed. Pittsburgh Presbytery held its first virtual Presbytery meeting via Zoom on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Let me simply say that it was a challenge. Usually we meet at Crestfield Camp and Conference Center and enjoy the facilities of the camp while renewing relationships and making new friends from other congregations. The Corona Virus Pandemic changed all of that. While technology can help us bridge the gap forced on us by COVID-19, it is not a full substitute. Yet the truth is that we will be required to use technology for the foreseeable future in an effort to blunt the spread of the virus, especially to those most vulnerable.

We see this in the worship and activities of the congregation. Session and the Board of Deacons have met via Zoom. My hat is off to our Christian Education Committee and workers who created a virtual Vacation Bible School instead of cancelling it all together. There is an old saying that where there is a will, there is a way. Way to go, Christian Ed people!

Since the end of June, your Session has opened the Sanctuary for Sunday morning worship at 9:15 a.m. following strict guidelines requiring the wearing of masks and keeping a physical/social distance. As you know, they have also ordered the recording of the Scripture text, the Pastoral Prayer, including the Lord's Prayer, and the Sermon. Personal attendance has been modest, but understandable to say the least. Information has come to us that more people are viewing what is recorded than are coming physically to the Sanctuary. This is to say that Linway is reaching more people than it otherwise would. All that can be said is: Thanks be to God! While the virus has curtailed the ability of many to gather out of an abundance of caution, the church has not ceased being the church, even when its ability to gather has been restricted.

When will things change? I honestly do not know, but I share your hope that it may be sooner rather than later. Much may depend upon the trials of vaccines. It seems that pharmaceutical companies have made rapid progress, but as I write this the results are some weeks away at the earliest. What I can say is that the leadership of our Lord's Linway Church is committed to worship and ministry to the best of our ability. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit is the gift that we receive, believe, and proclaim. It is undeserved and cannot be earned, but it is the basis of our ministry.

I would like to share one final thought with you as this is probably the last newsletter

article you will receive from me before the election on November 3<sup>rd</sup> this year. I encourage and sincerely urge you to vote for the local, state, and national candidates of your choice. Please note: I am not asking or encouraging you to vote for or against any candidate. I do not believe the Church or the local clergy person has the right to indicate how you should vote. The freedom to cast our ballots for the candidates of our choice is a freedom that is part of the foundation of our Constitution, just as much as the freedom to worship according to the dictates of conscience. At a time when our freedoms seem to be jeopardized by some who would see such freedoms limited, restricted, or abolished, the exercise of our constitutional right to cast our ballot for the candidates of our choice is essential. If you are registered to vote, please vote.

If you are able and willing to come to worship with the current guidelines, then I look forward to seeing you at Linway Church. If circumstances and an abundance of caution means that you will be viewing the recorded broadcast, then I hope you will find it meaningful as you endeavor to stay safe from the virus. Please know that your continued support is vital to the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ's Church. Thank you for your witness and your support.

Please review the information contained in the rest of this newsletter. It can be a great help as we plan our continuing witness. By the grace of God, we are one people and together part of the Body of Christ in this time and place. I look forward to sharing with you the worthy and sacred work of worship, mission, and ministry at our Lord's Linway Church.

Grace & Peace,  
Eric E. Dennis, Pastor



### **Delivery of Communion Elements**

For those unable to attend worship services, the Elders are offering to bring the elements to your home. Though they would like to be able to do this for everyone, they can only deliver to those who live locally and not a far distance or out of state. They would provide you with two sets of the pre-packaged wafers and juice so that you will have them for the remaining times we will be sharing the Lord's Supper this year. The Elders will not enter anyone's home, will not administer the sacraments, and will be wearing masks. If you are interested, please call the church office. The Elders will contact you before delivery.



### **All Saints Sunday: November 1**

We will be remembering the following individuals who went home to be with our Lord this past year:

Ed Dziak	Lynn Dziak
Glenn Heshizer	Robert Hite
Howard Keller	Nellie Nicholls
Donna Petrow	Betty Philipp
Mary Anna Trout	James Welsh



## Services in the Sanctuary and Online Recordings Continue

We are holding one service on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. in the Linway Sanctuary wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and following other policies for safety. Should you happen to arrive at church for worship and realize you forgot your mask, we have a small supply available for one-time use. We encourage those who are at high-risk or prefer not to be in public to watch our online video recording of the service on our Facebook page or the church website where it will be posted no later than by Monday at noon.

## Session Notes

The Session held their monthly meeting virtually on September 15. They accepted the resignation of Rick Morgan from his position of Session Elder. They also accepted the resignations of Shari Morgan and Samantha Morgan from their positions on the Board of Deacons. The Session thanks Rick, Shari, and Sam for their leadership and commitment to Linway Church and looks forward to the day when they may resume their activities at Linway when the pandemic is over.

**Next Session Meeting:** October 20 at 7:30 p.m. and will be held virtually via Zoom.



## West Parking Lot Paving Completed!

The West Parking Lot and the area near the James Street Entrance has been paved and it looks beautiful! Well, as beautiful as a parking lot can look. This is the final part of the “Buy A Spot” Project. Fundraising for this project started in June 2019 and our goal was reached in September. THANK YOU to those who contributed to help keep our parking area safe and welcoming for many years to come!

## Lawn Care Donations Requested



The grass is going to need cut a few more times this fall. We would appreciate donations toward our Lawn Care Fund to help defray the cost of the lawn mowing service that takes care of the church’s lawn. Each weekly cut of the grass costs \$40.00. If you are willing and able to help with this expense, please mark “Lawn Care” on your check memo line. Thank you so much for helping us keep the church’s lawn and grounds looking nice.

**WE PUT THE  
FUN  
IN FUNDRAISING**

## Fundraising Committee

**Giant Eagle Gift Cards** in \$25, \$50, or \$100 amounts are available to purchase as a fundraiser for our church. The church receives 5% of the value of each card that is purchased. If you are interested, please contact the church office.



The Fundraising Committee is exploring creative options to possibly hold some portions of the Linway Fall Festival. As you can imagine, there are many obstacles to figure out. This is such a big event for the community and one of our major fundraisers to support the church. It is hard to imagine an autumn without the Festival. We ask for your understanding when final decisions about the Festival are announced.



# Deacons

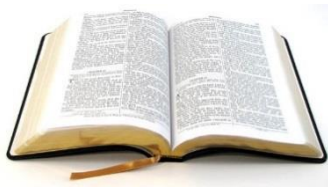
The Deacons held a virtual meeting on September 22 and discussed having a sign-up sheet for those comfortable in assisting with the Sunday services. During the meeting they voted to give a monetary donation to Ma's Pantry.

**Next Deacon Meeting:** November 1. Time and location (in-person or virtual) to be determined.

## 🍌🍌🍌🍌 Donations for Treat Boxes 🍌🍌🍌🍌

The Linway Deacons will be sending Halloween Treat Boxes to our college students and our members of the military. The donations will be used to purchase treat items and pay for the postage. Please place donations by Oct. 11 in the offering box or mail to church & indicate that it is for the "Halloween Treat Boxes".

## Christian Education Committee



### Bibles for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Students

In keeping with our annual tradition, this month we will be presenting our children who are in the third grade with their own new bible. The following children will be receiving bibles:

Allie Mitchell	Michael Rousseau
Ellie Mitchell	Ariana Trout
Chloe Rousseau	



## Bless a Child with a Shoebox Gift!

### Operation Christmas Child

It's time again to fill shoeboxes with gifts for needy children all over the world. However due to Covid, **instead of collecting the shoeboxes at Linway, this year we will be collecting monetary donations for shoeboxes through November 22.** Here are some options in which you may help:

**1. MONETARY DONATION:** Place a monetary donation in an envelope (cash or check payable to Linway Church). Mark that your donation is for "Shoeboxes" and place the envelope in the offering box or mail to Linway. We will send one check to Samaritan's Purse from Linway to be used to purchase shoebox items.

**2. BUILD A SHOEBOX ONLINE:** Samaritan's Purse will pack a box based on gift selections you make. Cost is \$25 per box. Use this link to get started: [www.samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ)

**3. PRAYER:** Pray that each shoebox makes a difference in a child's life and helps them to develop a relationship with our Lord. Each box is a tangible expression of God's love that brings the Good News of Jesus Christ. Children receiving a box are also given the opportunity to participate in a discipleship program where they learn about God's love through Bible stories.

Hopefully, we will be able to go back to collecting the shoeboxes next year. Let's not let this pandemic keep us from sharing the joy of the Lord! Please consider helping with this worthwhile outreach ministry!





### Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is continuing to operate out of the Linway kitchen 5 days a week to provide meals for their clients. Linway Church is scheduled to provide Desserts for Meals on Wheels October 19-23 and October 26-30. If you would like to provide store-bought, sealed cookies, please take them to the church kitchen Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 11:00 am. They cannot accept home-made items. Sugar-free packaged desserts are also appreciated. If you wish to send money towards a dessert, please mail your check to: Meals on Wheels  
600 Lincoln Highway,  
North Versailles, PA 15137.



### Start of Classes Delayed Until January Registration Still Being Accepted

The Linway Preschool Board voted to postpone the start of classes until January. If you or someone you know is interested in enrolling a child in the Linway Preschool program, please contact the church office at 412-824-3555.



### Mission to Feed the Homeless

Due to the pandemic, we have been unable to carry out our monthly Mission to Feed the Homeless in downtown Pittsburgh. We will provide updates as soon as we are able to resume this mission.

### Salvation Army & Homeless Clothing Donations

We are currently not able to receive any more clothing donations for the Salvation Army or for the Homeless. The Salvation Army is not sending its trucks to collect items from the church. At the current time, please take your clothing donations directly to the Salvation Army rather than placing them in or beside our Salvation Army Collection Box. We'll update as soon as we are able to resume collections for the Homeless & the Salvation Army Box.



Please remember the following in our prayers:

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| John Arnold      | Tracy Augustin   |
| Charlotte Ban    | Dennis Bernhardt |
| Betty Brinker    | Clay & Lois      |
| Clark Danner     | Dorothy          |
| Cindy Druga      | Mike Feigh       |
| Betty Frommell   | Gloria           |
| Jason & Jackie   | Audrey Koppel    |
| Jean Lawton      | Linda            |
| Chuck Linderman  | Edward Lloyd     |
| Rita Marrow      | Mary Ann         |
| Jimmy Moore      | Nicholls Family  |
| Nan Oskin        | Carol Pascarella |
| Pat              | Fran Peppler     |
| Mona Prychidniak | Ann Puscaric     |
| Renee            | Rhonda           |
| Patty Rodgers    | Doreen Sever     |
| Linda Smith      | Michelle Smith   |
| Michael Spingola | Rose Stark       |
| Peg Torbich      |                  |





**Happy October Birthday to:**

Timothy Hazard, Sr.	Clare Hillgartner
Ted Wirth	Samantha Morgan
Karen Crandall	Bill Knight
Sallie Kaser	Nicholas Sivrich
Jaime Ruffing	Audrey Koppel
Lila Sedlak	Claire Conley
Carmella Knight	Tim Mitchell
Meredith Hazard	Nicholas Bernhardt
Diane (Bernhardt) Randolph	



**Happy October Anniversary to:**

Leanne & Rich Cornell  
 Kim & Brian Bernhardt  
 Sandi & Tom Szmuc  
 Chris & Jamie Stewart  
 Carol & Mark Pascarella



**Our Sympathies** to Carol & Mark Pascarella and the Nicholls family. Nellie Nicholls, Carol's step-mother and a long-time member of Linway, went home to be with our Lord on September 21. The family is planning a memorial service to be held for Nellie at a later date.



**Our Sympathies** to Rob & Cindy Trout and family. Rob's mother, Mary Anna Trout, went home to be with our Lord on September 8.

**Would You Like to Become a Member of Linway Church?**

If so, please speak with Rev. Dennis or contact the church office. A few individuals have expressed an interest in joining our church, so we will be officially welcoming new members soon.

**Online Giving Through Tithe.ly**

Tithe.ly is a secure way to give to Linway Church through credit cards or your bank account from anywhere at any time. There are two ways to give via Tithe.ly:

- Website: <https://tithe.ly/give>
- App: Downloaded to your phone (<https://get.tithe.ly/download-tithely-app>) from either the Apple App Store or Google Play. Note: When searching for Tithe.ly, select the Finance App.

Once on either the website or the app, the registration process is very quick and secure. To find Linway, click on Search, type Linway and select Linway United Presbyterian Church. If you have any additional questions, please contact Christine Stewart, our Financial Secretary, at [financial@linwaychurch.org](mailto:financial@linwaychurch.org).

Also, the Church mail continues to be checked daily for church offerings that are sent through the U.S. Post Office. Please keep the giving going so we can meet our monthly expenses.

**Chancel Flowers**



At their last meeting, the Session approved that we may resume flowery delivery to the church for the Sunday morning worship service. Those purchasing flowers will

be responsible for removing the flowers from the Chancel after the service. During the pandemic, the Deacons will not be taking the flowers to our shut-ins. If you would like to purchase flowers, please contact the church office. The cost is \$12.50 per vase.





### Lord, Help Us

By Frank Fawcett

We need to give credit  
Where credit is due,  
All praise and all glory  
For all that you do.  
We take things for granted  
And lack in our trust.  
Why can't we be merciful,  
Loving, and just?  
Why can't we be peaceful,  
Loving and kind,  
And show admiration  
For all of mankind?  
Lord help us and give us  
The strength that we need,  
To honor and love you  
In word and in deed.

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*"To everything there is a season,  
and a time to every purpose  
under heaven..."*

*I know that all God does will last  
forever; there is no adding to it or  
taking from it. God works so that  
people will be in awe of Him."*

*Ecclesiastes 3: 1 and 14*

### A Holy Nation

By Frank Fawcett

Nations rise and nations fall  
As decades fade away.  
The vanity and folly of it all,  
We all have gone astray.  
But God the shepherd of our soul  
Chose us to be His own,  
That we, a holy nation  
May ascend unto His throne.  
Endowed with love and mercy  
And armed with faith and trust,  
We should always seek to do His will  
And do His will, we must.  
A chosen generation,  
We all in Christ can claim  
A victory over sin and death  
And cast away all shame.  
Now let us choose the way of life,  
The way of truth and love,  
That we may overcome this troubled world  
And as a holy nation, rise above.



## THANK YOU to all who helped with our Parking Lot Project!

Our newly paved West Parking Lot



Our newly paved James Street Entrance



### Being A Christian Is Like Being A Pumpkin

God picks you from the patch and brings you in. (John 15:16)

He washes all the dirt off you. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

He opens you up and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. (Romans 6:6)

Then He carves you a new smiling face. (Psalm 71:23)

He puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see. (Matthew 5:16)

This is a good way to explain being a Christian during the Fall. If you really look at it in that point-of-view, the jack-a-lantern has a new perspective. God does pick us up. He washes us from our sins (the Blood of Jesus is what cleanses us). The scooping out the yucky stuff is God molding us. The new carved face shows that we are a new creation in Christ. Plus, the light He gives us is the light we need to shine in a dark and dying world. That light is His Light, the light of Jesus which shines brighter the darker the world gets. So let your light shine!



### The Linway News

Linway United Presbyterian Church  
600 Lincoln Highway, N. Versailles, Pa  
15137

Church Phone: (412) 824-3555

[www.LinwayChurch.org](http://www.LinwayChurch.org)

LinwayChurch Facebook Page

**Church Office Hours are limited:**  
Telephone messages, email messages,  
and US Mail are being checked daily.

#### Church Staff:

**Pastor:** Rev. Eric E. Dennis

**Email:** [pastor@linwaychurch.org](mailto:pastor@linwaychurch.org)

**Church Office Manager:** Leanne Cornell

**Email:** [contact@linwaychurch.org](mailto:contact@linwaychurch.org)

**Financial Secretary:** Christine Stewart

**Email:** [financial@linwaychurch.org](mailto:financial@linwaychurch.org)

**Choir Director:** Margaret Dennis

**Organist:** Nancy Kelley

**Deadline** for newsletter information is usually the Sunday before the last Sunday of the month unless noted differently.

